

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 42-47, 49 and 50 are pending in the Application. All claims were rejected in the Office Action. Applicants amend Claims 42, 45 and 50 and respectfully request a reconsideration of the rejections.

Claim 45 was rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants corrected dependency of Claim 45 and respectfully submit that this claim now complies with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 42 and 50 were rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,453,898) in view of Reddy (U.S. Patent No. 3,537,731).

Applicants amended Claims 42 and 50 to recite that the first sealing surface is “dome-shaped and convex along an entire length of the first sealing surface” and that the second sealing surface is “concave conical and non-complementary to the first sealing surface along an entire length of each of the first and second sealing surfaces.” (*Emphasis added*) Support for this amendment is found in Figs. 8-10 of the Application.

Leka neither teaches nor suggests these limitations of the amended Claims 42 and 50. The Examiner cited Reddy alleging that Reddy discloses a dome-shaped and convex sealing surface 20, 34. However, neither surface 20 nor surface 34 is dome-shaped and convex “along the entire length” of these surfaces, as required by the amended Claims 42 and 50. See, Reddy, Fig. 1. Further, the Examiner indicated that the second sealing surface of Reddy, i.e., surface 21, is concave conical and non-complementary to the first sealing surface in the area of the seal. See, Office Action, page 4. However, contrary to the recitations of Claims 42 and 50, surface 21 is not concave conical and non-complementary to the surface 20, 34 along the entire length of either the surface 20, 34 or the surface 21. Therefore, Claims 42 and 50 are allowable over Leka in view of Reddy.

Claims 42-43 and 50 were alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leka et al. in view of Swauger (U.S. Patent No. 5,503,438). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Similarly to Reddy above, Swauger does not remedy the above deficiency of Leka. Specifically, Swauger teaches a sealing surface 28 inserted into the skirt 40. However, contrary

to the recitations of Claims 42 and 50, sealing surface 28 is not dome-shaped and convex “along the entire length” of this surface, and the inner surface of the skirt 40 is not concave conical and non-complementary to the surface 28 along the entire length of each of the surface 28 and the inner surface of the skirt. See, Swauger Fig. 2.

Therefore, Claims 42 and 50 are allowable over Leka in view of Swauger. Claim 43 depends from Claim 42. Therefore, Claim 43 is allowable over Leka in view of Swauger at least for the same reasons as Claim 42 and further on its own merits.

Claims 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leka in view of Swauger and as extrinsically evidenced by Pierce, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,410,186). Claims 44-47 depend from Claim 42. Pierce, Jr. does not remedy the above deficiency of Leka and Swauger. Therefore, Claims 44-47 are allowable over the cited references at least for the same reasons as Claim 42 and further on their own merits.

Claim 49 was rejected in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leka et al in view of Reddy and as extrinsically evidenced by Yotam et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,595,495). Claim 49 depends from Claim 42. Yotam does not remedy the above deficiency of Leka and Reddy. Therefore, Claim 49 is allowable over Leka in view of Reddy and Yotam at least for the same reasons as Claim 42 and further on its own merits.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

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